



Version of Specifications and Claims to Show Changes.

The paragraph beginning at line 18, page 1 has been amended as follows:

The conventional ginning process is summarily illustrated in Figure 1 which is labeled "Prior Art." It depicts a module 12 of field seed cotton bolls that were compacted in the field and brought to the cotton gin. A module feeder (not shown) fragments and disperses the compacted cotton 12 into the individual bolls and transmits them through a large diameter pipe and a rock and green boll trap (not shown) for delivery to a dryer 16. Prior to reaching the dryer 16, heated air from a fan and heater is also delivered to the cotton within the pipe. The purpose of the drying is to reduce the moisture content of the raw cotton to facilitate subsequent cleaning and removal of trash. This dried cotton is then drawn into another air duct for delivery to one (or, in many cases, two) cleaners 18 20 which remove a portion of the burrs, stems and other trash. As depicted, the cleaner 18 20 is an overhead, inclined cylinder type, although other types are used in various gins. These overhead cleaners 18 20 remove much of the trash from the cotton before it is passed to a stick or stick and burr extractor (not shown) that removes additional burrs, stems, and trash. From the extractor, additional heated air may be added to the system to dry the cotton down to a 6 or 7% moisture level before it reaches the gin stand 20 22 which separates the cotton fiber from the seed. From the gin stand 20 22, the cotton fiber is drawn into a pneumatic conveyor for transfer to one or more lint cleaners 22 24 which have the job of removing the remaining pin trash from the cotton before it is baled in the press 24 26.

3700 MAIL ROOM
JUN - 7 2002
RECEIVED

A

The paragraph beginning at line 4, page 3 has been amended as follows:

To solve or minimize the above identified problems, the present invention includes a combination dryer-cleaner that enhances the trash removal problem at the beginning of the ginning process and minimizes the need for or use of multiple saw-type lint cleaners. Specifically, the combination includes a single unit dryer-cleaner assembly that enables the cotton to be more efficiently dried and then transmitted from the dryer to the cleaner without the use of ~~use of~~ piping, conduits ~~on~~ or conveyers which would entrap the trash and render the cleaning far more difficult. The dryer-cleaner unit also includes a novel design of T shaped grid bars that enhance the drying process and avoid clogging of the air passages so as to maximize air flow and drying.

The paragraph beginning at line 11, page 6 has been amended as follows:

The primary bracket 52 is provided with elongated slots 56 which receive the web 50a of the T bars and permit the bottom surfaces of the deck or flange 50b to engage and rest against the support section 52b of the bracket 52. A notch 58 on the web 50a of the T beam engages the end of the elongated slot 56 to restrain the T bar against sliding movement down the surface. Finally, a locking plate 60 with apertures is used to lock the top end of the T beams 50 against pivotal movement about notch 58 and to maintain them in place. To facilitate attachment of the locking plate 60, the apertures 62 may be threaded. Alternatively, locking nuts 64 may be used as shown in Figure 4.

The paragraph beginning at line 7, page 8 has been amended to read:

The rotary motion of the first spike cylinder 74 of the cleaner also carries a pulley wheel on the opposite side which is tied to a first pulley wheel 92 of the lower wad busting

A

cylinder 44. This belt is not shown because the pertinent portion of Figure 3 was broken away to depict the internal portion of the cylinders. As earlier mentioned, however, the lower wad busting cylinder 44 ~~carries~~ carries a single belt 94 that is serpentine through pulley wheels 92 of each of the other wad busting cylinders 44 and an idler pulley which is unnumbered. Thus, a single motor 86 supplies rotary power to the entire dryer-cleaner unit 40-70 18.

In the claims, claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A combination dryer-cleaner apparatus for a cotton gin for enhancing the drying function and the cleaning function of seed cotton while reducing damage to the ~~cotton~~ fiber of said seed cotton, the apparatus comprising:
 - a) a dryer for receiving raw field cotton, said dryer having a housing and at least one rotating cylinder for busting any compacted wads of field cotton and for dispersing the field cotton into individual bolls and thrusting them upon at least one inclined shelf to enhance drying, said dryer also having a circuitous route for transferring the cotton to a cleaner to enhance drying;
 - b) a cleaner having a plurality of cylinders for dragging the seed cotton across associated grid bars for separating trash from the raw cotton; and
 - c) said dryer being mounted upon said cleaner and communicating therewith through an unrestricted opening to permit immediate and substantially unrestricted transfer of the raw cotton from the dryer to the cleaner to effectuate cleaning before the trash recombines with the cotton and while it remains in a heated condition when trash separation is enhanced.

In the claims, claim 5 is amended as follows: